

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:MLDURKEE:LRG

APPROVED BY S/AM - ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY

EUR/WE:EMROWELL

S/AM:LPEZZULLO

OSD/ISA:HBERGOLD

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

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USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP, US

SUBJECT: ROUND 8 ON SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: ROUND 8 SHOWED NO PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUE OF FACILITIES; SPANISH REPEATED DEMAND FOR EQUAL TREATMENT WITH NATO IN DEFENSE MATTERS; AND WORKING GROUPS CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS ON MILITARY EQUIPMENT LISTS AND SOFA MATTERS. SPANISH SIDE, CLEARLY UNSETTLED BY DISCLOSURE THAT WE WOULD NOT PRESENT COUNTER PROPOSAL ON FACILITIES ISSUE IN THIS ROUND, STATED TIME WAS RUNNING OUT AND POINT MIGHT SOON BE REACHED

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WHEN DELEGATIONS WOULD HAVE TO REPORT LACK OF AGREEMENT AND REFER POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS FOR DECISION. ROUND NINE SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 18 IN MADRID.

END SUMMARY.

2. ROUND 8 OF SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS WAS HELD IN WASHINGTON JULY 21-23, WITH DELEGATION LINE-UPS GENERALLY AS BEFORE (MAJ. GEN. RYDER VICE HALL FOR EUCOM; ROWELL CICE LUKENS FOR EUR/WE). PLENARY SESSIONS WERE HELD JULY 21 (MORNING AND AFTERNOON), JULY 22 (AFTERNOON) AND JULY 23 (MORNING). MILITARY COMMITTEE MET MORNING OF JULY 22; SOFA WORKING GROUP MET JULY 22 (MORNING) AND JULY 23 (MORNING AND AFTERNOON). STEERING COMMITTEE DID NOT MEET BECAUSE OF SPANISH DISCOMFORT WITH A GROUP WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE REPS

FROM ALL 3 MILITARY SERVICES. INSTEAD AMB MCCLOSKEY AND ROVIRA MET IN PRIVATE SESSIONS ON MONDAY MORNING AND DURING LUNCHEON ON TUESDAY.

3. IN OPENING PLENARY, MCCLOSKEY SAID US WOULD NOT BE

ABLE TO RESPOND AT THIS ROUND ON FACILITIES ISSUE BECAUSE OF SEVERITY OF SPANISH POSITION; GOS POSITION RAISED FUN-

DAMENTAL QUESTIONS REQUIRING ADDITIONAL STUDY AND US RESPONSE COULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL NEXT ROUND. HE SAID US WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER OTHER MATTERS, BUT THAT FACILITIES QUESTION WAS KEY ISSUE ON WHICH WOULD DEPEND FINAL US POSITION ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE, NEW INSTITUTIONS, THE FORM OF AGREEMENT, ETC. ROVIRA WAS DISAPPOINTED US UNABLE TO RESPOND YET TO SPANISH ROUND 7 FACILITIES PROPOSAL, BUT EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO LOOK AT OTHER MATTERS AND WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT STEERING COMMITTEE FORMAT BE ABANDONED IN FAVOR OF PRIVATE MEETINGS OF TWO DELEGATION LEADERS ALONE. HE BASED SUGGESTION ON PAST RESULTS OF SUCH DIRECT CONTACTS AND ALSO ON IMBALANCE IN STEERING COMMITTEE ARISING FROM FACT THAT US HAD SINGLE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WHILE SPAIN HAD THREE SERVICE MINISTRIES PLUS HIGH GENERAL STAFF. MCCLOSKEY AGREED TO HEAD-TO-HEAD MEETINGS IN PLACE OF STEERING COMMITTEE.

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4. ROVIRA THEN RAISED NEW SUBSTANTIVE POINT BY REFERRING TO REMARKS BY PRESIDENT FORD AT STATE DINNER IN MADRID, IN WHICH PRESIDENT SAID THAT SPAIN CONTRIBUTED TO WESTERN WORLD THROUGH BILATERAL DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH US AND THAT US WAS PREPARED TO DRAW "PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES" FROM THESE FACTS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. ROVIRA SAID SPANISH ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO THESE REMARKS AND WISHED TO LEARN HOW THEY MIGHT APPLY IN PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS.

5. IN AFTERNOON PLENARY ON JULY 21 MCCLOSKEY ADDRESSED SUBJECT OF PRESIDENT'S REFERENCE TO "PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES," WHICH HE PLACED IN BROAD CONTEXT OF US-SPANISH RELATIONS IN MANY FIELDS. IN DEFENSE MATTERS, US SIDE HAD

DEMONSTRATED MEANING OF THESE WORDS BY STRENOUS US EFFORTS IN NATO AS WELL AS BY SUCCESSIVE PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL DEFENSE RELATIONS UNDER NEW AGREEMENT. MCCLOSKEY UNDERLINED US SUPPORT FOR SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO BUT EXPRESSED REGRET THAT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN HELD HOSTAGE TO CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH NATO, GIVEN REALITY THAT SUCH CLOSER ASSOCIATION IS NOT FEASIBLE AT PRESENT.

6. ROVIRA THEN OUTLINED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF US OFFERS ALREADY TABLED AS DOLS 500 MILLION FMS CREDIT, TREATY

WITHOUT SECURITY GUARANTEE, COMBINED DEFENSE STAFF AND IMPROVED INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. MCCLOSKEY CONFIRMED. IN RESPONSE TO ROVIRA'S QUESTION AS TO FACILITIES ON WHICH THIS OFFER BASED, MCCLOSKEY SAID US HAD PROPOSED CONTINUATION OF PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS EXCEPT FOR REMOVAL OF WEAPONS ON-SHORE AT ROTA AND RELOCATION OF TANKERS FROM TORREJON TO OTHER LOCATION IN SPAIN.

7. ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS, BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT EXPERTS COULD MEET ON TAXES AND CUSTOMS IN MADRID BEFORE NEXT ROUND AND THAT QUESTIONS RELATING TO NUCLEAR LIABILITY AND MUNITIONS STORAGE AND TRANSPORT WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN SOFA WORKING GROUP.

8. PLENARY ON JULY 22 REVIEWED DISCUSSIONS IN MILITARY COMMITTEE ON SPANISH EQUIPMENT LISTS. ADMIRAL HANNIFIN SUMMARIZED DISCUSSIONS AND NOTED THAT PRICES WERE ONLY SECRET

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ESTIMATES AND THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SPANISH COORDINATE SERVICE LISTS AND ESTABLISH PRIORITIES. SPANISH SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES DEFENDED SIZE OF THEIR ORIGINAL LISTS, COMPLAINED ABOUT HIGH US PRICES, AND HINTED SPANISH LISTS COULD BE SCALED DOWN FURTHER. PERINAT AND BARRINGER REPORTED PROGRESS ON SEVERAL POINTS ON LABOR AND JURISDICTIONAL QUESTIONS IN SOFA WORKING GROUP BUT SAID MUCH REMAINED TO BE DONE.

9. REMAINDER OF JULY 22 PLENARY DEVOTED TO LENGTHY ROVIRA RESPONSE TO US PAPER GIVEN TO CORTINA PREVIOUS WEEK.

TABURDEN OF SPANISH PRESENTATION (COPY HAND-CARRIED TO MADRID BY ADMIRAL LEMOS) WAS THAT SPAIN INSISTS ABOVE ALL ON TREATMENT IN DEFENSE MATTERS ON SAME BASIS AS US TREATS NATO ALLIES; PRESENT SITUATION KEEPS SPAIN IN DEPENDENT, PASSIVE ROLE, AND IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH FACT OF SPANISH CONTRIBUTIONS AND SPANISH SOVEREIGNTY, AS RECOGNIZED IN JOINT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. THUS, WHILE SPAIN ACKNOWLEDGES AND APPRECIATES US EFFORTS, GOOD INTENTIONS WERE NOT SUFFICIENT AND REAL CHANGES MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED TO RECTIFY DISCRIMINATION

SUFFERED BY SPAIN; GOS CANNOT ACQUIESCE TO CONTINUATION OF
PRESENT SITUATION.

MCCLOSKEY DELIBERATELY MADE NO

RESPONSE HAVING EARLIER AND PRIVATELY EXPLAINED TO ROVIRA
THAT OUR INTENTION WAS TO CUT THIS SUBJECT OFF, NOT
PERPETUATE ANY ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

10. PLENARY ON JULY 23 CONSISTED OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL
OF COMMUNIQUE AND BRIEF COMMENTS BY ROVIRA AND MCCLOSKEY
ON LACK OF REAL PROGRESS IN ROUND 8. ROVIRA MADE POINT OF
STRESSING THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT AND THAT, GIVEN FRUIT-
LESS STUDY TO DATE OF VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES, POINT MIGHT
SOON BE REACHED WHEN NEGOTIATORS WOULD HAVE TO REPORT
LACK OF AGREEMENT ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES AND REFER POSSIBLE
ALTERNATIVES TO THEIR RESPECTIVE PRINCIPALS FOR DECISION
BY "POLITICAL AUTHORITIES."

11. BRIEF COMMUNIQUE (REPORTED SEPTTEL) REFERRED TO
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CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF KEY ISSUES, NOTED THAT WORKING
GROUPS ON TAXES AND CUSTOMS MATTERS WOULD MEET AUGUST 4
IN MADRID, AND INDICATED ROUND NINE WOULD BEGIN AUGUST 18
IN MADRID. KISSINGER

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